2. **(Amended)** The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes an SMP polypeptide involved in the production of a fine chemical.

3. **(Amended)** An isolated *Corynebacterium glutamicum* nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, or SEQ ID NO:21, or the complement thereof.

4. **(Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, or SEQ ID NO:22.

5. **(Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, or SEQ ID NO:22, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to the complement of a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, or SEQ ID NO:21 in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65°C.

6. **(Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 50% identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, or SEQ ID NO:21, or the complement thereof.

7. **(Amended)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 15 nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, or SEQ ID NO:21, or the complement thereof.

35. **(Amended)** A method for diagnosing the presence or activity of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* in a subject, comprising detecting the presence of one or more of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, or SEQ ID NO:21, or the complement thereof in the subject, thereby diagnosing the presence or activity of *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* in the subject.

36. **(Amended)** A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, or SEQ ID NO:21, or the complement thereof, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is disrupted.

37. **(Amended)** A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, or SEQ ID NO:21, or the complement thereof, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more nucleic acid modifications.

38. **(Amended)** A host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, or SEQ ID NO:21, or the complement thereof, wherein the regulatory region of the nucleic acid molecule is modified relative to the wild-type regulatory region of the molecule.